

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest.

Approaching 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

FAW and the Crary Teaming Up Locally

Can you believe that the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act is now so close? It is only a year and a half away! The 50th Anniversary National Wilderness Planning Team (*Wilderness50*) is pleased to announce the launch of www.wilderness50th.org, a new website dedicated to this important milestone. "Having a website of its own will give *Wilderness50* and all the exciting preparations for the 50th anniversary of our wilderness system a much more immediate and vibrant appeal to folks around the country," said Vicky Hoover, *Wilderness50* co-chair and longtime wilderness advocate and volunteer.

The website honors 50 years of preservation, use, and enjoyment of wilderness by:

- Cataloging all local, regional, and national 50th anniversary events, meetings, programs, and projects occurring between now and 2014, and dedicated to raising awareness of wilderness. As event planning escalates, event hosts and organizers are encouraged to enter their events onto the map and calendar.
- Providing resources and materials for people and organizations interested in hosting or organizing 50th anniversary local community events. Possible

events can include Walks for Wilderness; outings and service trips; museum, airport, or visitor center exhibits; speakers; interpretive programs; trainings or workshops; photography or writing contests; art shows; music or dance programs; book or poetry readings; stewardship projects and more.

- Providing information about the National Wilderness Conference, to be held October 15th-19th, 2014 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This event will be *Wilderness50's* premier forum for discussing the growing challenges of perpetuating the values of wilderness in a time of unprecedented environmental and social change.



Please join *Wilderness50* in celebrating "50 Years of American Wilderness" by visiting...

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365
814-723-0620
info@pawild.org
www.pawild.org

...www.wilderness50th.org and entering your email address on the home page to sign up for future key 50th updates.

Wilderness50 is a coalition of more than 25 non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies that is planning and implementing local, regional, and national events and projects. This coalition is charged with raising public awareness of wilderness during 2014, the 50th anniversary year.

America's wilderness system was established in 1964 for the use and enjoyment of the American people and provides many direct and indirect benefits, such as those relating to ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, spiritual, economic, recreational, historical, and cultural uses and activities. The 758 wilderness areas that have been designated to date are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service. You can learn more by visiting our website, Facebook page, or Twitter:

facebook.com/50thAnniversaryOfTheWildernessAct

twitter.com/wild50th

Locally, during September 2014, Warren's Crary Art Gallery will be hosting a photography exhibition co-curated with the Warren-based non-profit organization Friends of Allegheny Wilderness. Titled "Wilderness at 50: Photographic Reflections on the Legacy of Tionesta Visionary Howard Zahniser," the show will feature the work of many high-profile photographers with images from throughout the National

Wilderness Preservation System.

The show will open on Saturday, August 30th, 2014 and will feature current president of The Wilderness Society Jamie Williams as keynote speaker. Mr. Williams accepted our invitation to be keynote speaker in November. Other invited speakers include former ANF Forest Supervisor Leanne Marten, currently the director for Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers for the U.S. Forest Service.



The Allegheny National Forest currently features two designated wilderness areas – the Hickory Creek Wilderness and Allegheny Islands Wilderness were established in 1984 and total about 9,000 acres, or less than two percent of the 513,300-acre ANF. Nationally, about 18 percent of all national forest land is designated as wilderness under the Wilderness Act.

Warren Times Observer

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Wilderness Graffiti

FAW leader says vandalism on rise in national forest

By BRIAN COLLINS

bcollins@timesobserver.com

A developing trend of vandalism within the Allegheny National Forest has the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) on the lookout.

"There appears to be a growing trend of flagrant desecration of our sacred nature reserves by using spray paint within both the Hickory Creek Wilderness and Allegheny Islands Wilderness in recent years," reported FAW Executive Director Kirk Johnson. "This

has been occurring for a number of years. Even as you get out further into the wilderness, there have been occurrences. The most pronounced and egregious incident is the most recent one in the Hickory Creek Wilderness area."



A new coat of graffiti cloaks an ancient sycamore tree on Crulls Island in the Allegheny Island Wilderness, an eyesore that significantly detracts from the wilderness experience. Please help spread the word about not vandalizing our wilderness.

The extent and area that the vandalism has affected is severe enough that Johnson hopes the U.S. Forest Service will get involved.

The markings appear to have occurred last summer or early last fall, according to Johnson, who first noticed them during a trail clean-up during the last week of September 2012.

Along a one-mile segment of the Hickory Creek Wilderness Trail alone, around 100 trees were marked with bright pink spray paint. The size of the markings ranged from four-inch-long slashes to markings that spanned more than halfway around the

circumference of the larger trees along the trails – some of which reach nearly five-feet around.

"Our message is that we want the public to know that they shouldn't paint any 'blazes' along any hiking trail," said Johnson of the damage. "In the wilderness, people should practice Leave No Trace principles."

The spray paint seems to be an apparent attempt by amateurs to 'blaze' or mark the trail despite the presence of the original trail markers. "The trail is already blazed with white paint," Johnson explained as he pointed to a white mark on a tree nearby. "The white paint will wear off eventually and won't be re-painted. By the time that happens, the trail will be obvious enough, but it's still a fairly new trail right now."

According to Johnson, separate incidents at Crulls Island in the Allegheny Islands Wilderness were just as severe. "This is a federally designated wilderness," he said, "a sacred nature reserve is where the preservation of wilderness values is paramount over all other conceivable concerns for all time to come."



Spray paint graffiti in an off-trail area of the Hickory Creek Wilderness east of Coon Run. Multiple trees at this location were vandalized.

According to Kathryn Mohney of the U.S.

Forest Service, offenses associated with damaging any natural resource or property of the federal government, including timber. Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1361, is the most common statute used to prosecute violators. The penalties for violations of this Section are tied to the extent of the property damage. If the damage exceeds \$100, the defendant is subject to a fine of up to \$250,000, ten years imprisonment, or both. When property damage does not exceed \$100, the offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000, one year imprisonment, or both.



More than 100 ‘trail blazes’ were recently painted on trees along the Hickory Creek Wilderness trail, in the pictured example using day-glo green paint. Visitors should not take it upon themselves to paint blazes along the Hickory Creek Wilderness trail. This significantly detracts from the wilderness experience and is against the law.

At this time, the USFS is not involved in the investigation, but Special Agent Bill Mickle did stress the importance of timeliness in the reporting of such acts.

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Do You See Glorious Green?

by Steve Sorensen



(Originally published in the Warren Times Observer, March 16, 2013.)

Green is glorious.

Although my eyesight was better when I was a kid, I didn’t see then what I see now. With each passing year the changes I witness in springtime seem more and more impressive. Do you have eyes to see it? Do you see the things behind the things you see?

Are you seeing raggedy-looking deer feeding voraciously in fields along the roads? We see their coats beat up by three months of harsh weather. One reason those deer are so hungry now is that many of them, as the saying goes, are “eating for two” – or even three. Inside some of those deer, seen only by God, are fawn embryos – and their developmental pace is picking up speed. By the end of May, those fawns will start hitting the ground.

When you step out of your house in the morning, are you hearing songbirds composing sonatas for their mates? It reminds me that turkeys are strutting and gobbling as the gobblers try to catch the interest of the hens. Remarkably, the harsh winter seems to have had little effect on the feathered armor of the big birds – much less than it had on the hair of the deer as they shed the gray-brown winter coat for the red-brown summer coat.

When you see baby robins in the nest, will you realize most animals have been programmed to bear young in the spring, when optimum conditions prevail? If fawns were born and

chicks were hatched in November, they'd never survive. The young of coyotes and foxes are also born in spring, and their transition to solid food is timed perfectly – it's the same time the offspring of prey species enter the world.

Prey species must be prolific because their young suffer high mortality. A turkey hen, for example, will hatch a dozen or more poults and is lucky if half of them still survive come fall. By then their flesh has nourished ravenous prey animals. Yes, predators gotta eat.

Have you noticed how much more profound the changes to the trees are in the spring than in the fall? The beautiful colors in the autumn landscape are hard to miss as fall gives us a show that peaks for only about a week. If we have eyes to see it, spring gives us a show that lasts from now to June, and beyond.

The hills around us will soon turn pink as the leaf buds on the hardwood trees begin to swell. Before long, those hills gradually transition from pink to seemingly infinite shades of green – from the palest that's virtually yellow, to the deepest green of the primeval hemlocks.

Every hardwood species has its own vernal hue, and proceeds at its own pace to a mature, vibrant green. To me, the greens of spring put on a show just as spectacular as the brilliant reds and oranges and yellows of fall. Why we don't ooh and ahh at the variegated spring hills, like we do in fall?

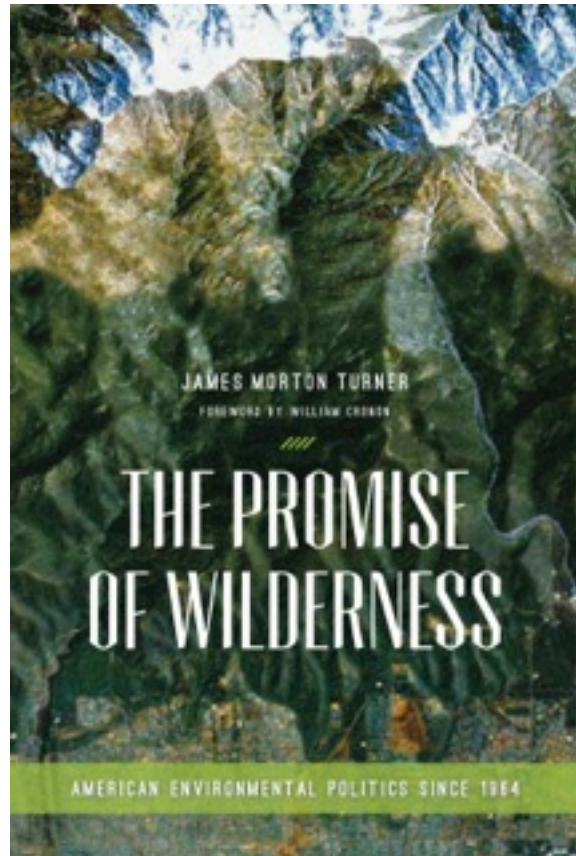
The prophet Ezekiel said, "Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear" (Ezekiel 12:2). I hope our eyes aren't failing to see the splendor of spring because we're rebellious, or self-absorbed, or spiritually nearsighted. We tell ourselves to stop and smell the roses. Can we also tell ourselves to stop and soak in the beauty as we stand on the threshold of earth's

glorious green?

Jesus said in Matthew 13:13, "This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand." Could there be a parable for us in those cryptic words? When glorious green breaks out all around us, will we see the trees of our hillsides proclaiming their praise for their creator in the way he made them to do? And will we join the chorus?

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Like the FAW Facebook Page for a Chance to Win a Signed Copy of *The Promise of Wilderness*!



If you have not yet "liked" the Facebook page of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, here's the time to do it. Our Facebook page is sitting at 495 likes as of this writing. As soon as we hit 500 likes, we will be giving away a brand new

first edition hard-cover copy of *The Promise of Wilderness: American Environmental Politics Since 1964* by James Morton Turner, signed by the author himself!

The winner will be randomly chosen from our Facebook followers at that time, so you will have to have liked our page in order to be eligible to win.

Please also feel free to pass this message around to all of your friends and family to help us get as many new likes as possible. Not only will you have a chance to win this fantastic history book, but following FAW on Facebook is also a great way to keep up with the campaign to protect wilderness in Pennsylvania's only national forest!

Here is the link to the FAW Facebook page:

facebook.com/FriendsofAlleghenyWilderness

Join FAW for an Earth Day Stewardship Project in the Hickory Creek Wilderness

Just a friendly reminder that we are about a month out from our next Hickory Creek Wilderness trail stewardship project, so please consider joining us! During our April project we are asking participants to bring wire brushes if you have them. We will be carefully brushing spray paint graffiti off tree trunks where it is encountered. In recent years some visitors have unfortunately taken it upon themselves to illegally spray paint 'trail blazes' at locations along the trail - using hot pink and day-glo green paint!

In addition to our primary mission of working with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest, Friends of Allegheny Wilderness over the years has also made significant volunteer investments in stewardship of the Hickory Creek Wilderness

trail, ecological restoration of sites within the Hickory Creek Wilderness, and removal of refuse from the Allegheny Islands Wilderness.

Our next major wilderness stewardship project will be a clean-up of the 13-mile Hickory Creek Wilderness trail on the weekend of April 19th, 20th, and 21st. We will leave from the Hickory Creek Wilderness trailhead on Hearts Content Road Friday evening, April 19th, spend two nights in the wilderness, and hike out on Sunday, April 21st.

Minimum tools such as axes and elbow grease are all we will use to remove woody debris from the trail (no bow saws or cross-cut saws), in order to help perpetuate the rustic wilderness character of the trail. And of course, no power tools such as chainsaws are permitted in wilderness, so there will be no specialized training needed in that regard. There is no charge to join this program, but participants will need to bring all of their own food, camping equipment, and come fully prepared for any weather conditions we may encounter.

This is a great, rewarding way to intimately experience the natural beauty of the Hickory Creek Wilderness first-hand! Please contact FAW to register or with any questions you may have at info@pawild.org.

FAWN Dedication: Lee L. Snyder

We are saddened to report that a long-time member of the wilderness family has been lost. Lee L. Snyder, Ph.D., husband to the late Helen Zahniser Snyder for more than 50 years, passed away on Sunday, March 10th at the age of 91 after a brief illness. A professor at Philadelphia University for 34 years, Lee was brother-in-law to Tionesta native Howard Zahniser, author of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Lee and Helen were staunch supporters of

Howard Zahniser, The Wilderness Society, and wilderness protection in general. Lee was long a member of The Wilderness Society, as well as a supporter of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness since our inception in 2001.



Lee L. Snyder at the West Forest Junior/Senior High School in Tionesta, Pennsylvania during the August 13th, 2001 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission historical marker dedication for Wilderness Act author and Tionesta native Howard Zahniser. Photo by Jeff Johnson.

Most recently Lee was concerned with the rash of anti-wilderness legislation being promoted during this past 112th Congress, and so penned a *Delaware County Daily Times* op-ed, "Keep wilderness roadless," about a year ago in response to those legislators who sought to undermine Howard Zahniser's important wilderness legacy for all Americans. With the help of Lee and many others around the country, we were able to turn back the "Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act" and other anti-wilderness bills during the 112th Congress.

Lee's passing serves as another reminder that the torch must be born by those who come after. We dedicate this issue of *FAWN* to his memory.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library, 3501 Midvale Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19129-1498.

Climate Change

You ask me what
winter was like in
the old days but
I say ask the
chickadee whose
energy budget is
so tight – *he told
me this himself* –
if he but moves
overnight he may
starve to death
by morning

– Ed Zahniser
In memory of Lee L. Snyder

Order Your Friends of Allegheny Wilderness Leave a Legacy Bumper Sticker Today!

Good news! FAW just received a new shipment of our popular "Leave a Legacy" bumper stickers. If you would like one or more to display on your bumper or elsewhere to show your support for the acutely urgent need to protect additional wilderness in Pennsylvania's only national forest, simply let us know at info@pawild.org and we will mail them out to you asap, free of charge!



Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365



Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*)

The Black-capped Chickadee is a small North American songbird growing to 12-15 cm in length, with a wingspan of 16-21 cm. It is notable for its capacity to lower its body temperature during cold winter nights, its good spatial memory to relocate the caches where it stores food, and its boldness near humans (they can feed from the hand).

Your contribution to Friends of Allegheny Wilderness goes directly to saving wilderness!

Yes, I want to support Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and help protect Pennsylvania's Wilderness.

Yes, I want to contribute! Here is my donation of (circle one):

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$_____

Please make checks payable to "Friends of Allegheny Wilderness." Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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Send to:
Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365